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11 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. On Monday afternoon, 9 September, at Dr. McMillan's request I met with him in his office in the Pentagon.

2. He had been on leave and wanted to discuss a number of NRO matters that had arisen during his absence.

3. He discussed the interchange of messages between [redacted] as regards the new camera development and their apparent inability to agree on what they had agreed upon. Dr. McMillan was upset about this because he had thought an agreement would be simple. He did not indicate what action he was going to take nor did he ask me to take any action.

4. Dr. McMillan was concerned about the concept of a single manager for all programs involving Kelly Johnson. He was not sure that Kelly would accept such an idea nor that we could put our hands on the proper person to be such a contact. I expressed the same concern and said that Mr. McCone was meeting with Kelly Johnson on Thursday, 12 September, and would sound him out on the proposition.

5. Dr. McMillan then said he was seeking an appointment with Mr. McCone to cover the following:

a. To report the present status of actions as a result of the Purcell Panel;

b. To arrange for an NRO budget briefing for Mr. McCone;

c. To explain to Mr. McCone his idea that there really had not been a scheduling slippage but that an additional satellite had been put into the system which appeared to make the others slip.

NRO review(s) completed. [redacted]

[Redacted]
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[Redacted]

d. Dr. McMillan is going to request membership on USIB. I pointed out that I personally did not consider this appropriate but that I felt that whenever NRO matters were discussed, to include the establishment of requirements, he should certainly be present. I saw little point in his attempting to engage in discussions, without benefit of staff support, in all the other facets of intelligence community work.

e. Dr. McMillan will discuss with Mr. McCone what he intends to say about NRO to the President's Board in response to their memorandum of 7 June to the Secretary of Defense. In this connection, Dr. McMillan said the memorandum to the Secretary of Defense had been routed to DIA and that it was only a day or so ago that he was aware of it or that any action was started on it.

f. I confirmed to Dr. McMillan that Mr. McCone had informed Mr. Gilpatrick that if the DOD portions of the NRO were to continue to be handled as a line organization, Mr. McCone would interpose no objection. However, it was Mr. McCone's position that Program B was a CIA program and that Dr. Wheelon, General Carter, and Mr. McCone would all be kept thoroughly witting of everything that went on and that therefore in this connection the line organization ceased. This should not discourage Dr. McMillan from dealing directly with Ledford but he should be aware that his directives might be subject to CIA guidance and override if such seemed appropriate.

g. As to TAGBOARD, I stated that our position was unequivocal and unalterable -- we would welcome a Project Director furnished by Dr. McMillan, but that technical direction and management of the program must remain in Program B under CIA guidance and control. I pointed out that in the present state of other reconnaissance programs we could not do otherwise.

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

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